

GENERAL ELECTION, 2020

CONSERVATIVES UNITED FOR RICHLAND COUNTY

# VOTER GUIDE



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# HOW SHOULD YOU VOTE?

**T**hese are perilous times for America. But as we have learned in this election cycle, what happens in Montana affects the entire country. Steve Daines (R) voted in the U.S. Senate uniformly with the wishes of President Donald J. Trump. But Daines is in a tough election with Governor Steve Bullock (D) as his opponent. If Bullock wins, the likelihood is that Republicans will lose control of the U.S. Senate. And if Republicans lose control of the U.S. Senate, Donald Trump stands a nearly 100% chance of being impeached by the Democrat-controlled House on more trumped-up charges and the Democrat-led Senate will successfully vote to convict him.

Imagine that. Even if President Trump wins his against-the-odds presidential re-election, he will still face removal from office based upon what we as Montanans do on November 3.

Each and every race is important, however, and not just the statewide races. The Great Coronavirus Panic of 2020 has showed us that each and every official is an important one at the county level. How our counties have reacted to COVID-19 - or over-reacted - has been determined by local officials. Whether or not Bullock's unconstitutional orders have been enforced has been determined by County Sheriffs. Whether or not infractions of his mandate are prosecuted has been determined by County Attorneys. Whether or not mask-violators have the book thrown at them has been determined by County Judges.

Additionally, we have seen the importance of county commissioners in the 2020 panic. Commissioners appoint the unelected health board, which have been given oversight of pandemic response under Montana law. How many of us knew our lives could be controlled by unelected bureaucrats prior to this pandemic? This means that the elected officials who appoint the unelected bureaucrats should be carefully scrutinized to make sure they're vetting those who serve on the county health board, making sure they have an understanding of basic constitutional law (and medicine).

As survivors of 2020 thus far, we have also seen the importance of the role of county clerk, as every county in Montana has had to struggle with the reality of an all-mail election. One can see how voter-fraud and mismanagement could become a nightmare for our election process without dutiful county clerks. Ideally, we would like to see our clerks act independently of our governor. Indeed, we want every local office to be a check-and-balance against every other level of government, doing what is in the best interest of the county.



Conservatives United for Richland County fought hard to remove a fake-Republican candidate from HD35. Joel Krautter's last vote in office was to vote against Republican leadership and with the Democratic minority to give Governor Bullock the power to reign sovereign over Montana's coronavirus response. The GOP had a plan in place to let the legislature check-and-balance Bullock's power to close down our economy, shut our churches, and prevent peaceful assembly. But one liberal in office - unfortunately from Richland County - stopped that effort.

This is why local elections are important.

Our voter guide makes recommendations based upon the following principles:

- \* The belief that a Free Market is a healthy market
- \* The notion that a smaller government is a better government

- \* The assertion that gun rights are essential to the preservation of all other rights
- \* A belief that wealth-redistribution through taxation is immoral theft
- \* A belief in maximum personal liberty to do what your conscience allows or dictates, so long as it doesn't hurt other people or infringe upon their liberties
- \* The valuing of our Christian heritage and embrace of traditional Western civilization (emphasizing the concept of civil liberties, individualism, personal freedom, and economic liberty)

## PLEASE SUPPORT THESE CANDIDATES

**President and Vice-President** - DONALD J. TRUMP (R) and MIKE PENCE (R)

**U.S. Senate** - Steve Daines (R)\*

**U.S. House of Representatives** - Matt Rosendale (R)

**Governor and Lt. Governor** - Greg Gianforte (R) and Kristen Juras (R)

**Secretary of State** - Christi Jacobson (R)

**Attorney General** - Austin Knudsen (R)

**State Auditor** - Troy Downing (R)

**State Superintendent of Public Instruction** - Elsie Arntzen (R)

**Supreme Court Justice #5** - McKinnon

**To Retain Katherine Bidegaray as Judge** - NO\*\*\*

**State Senate District 18** - Steve Hinebauch

**State Representative for HD35** - Brandon Ler

**Clerk of District Court** - \*\*\*No Recommendation

**County Commissioner** - \*\*\*\*Loren Young

\* We offer this recommendation for Steve Daines in light of his zero-sum fight with a considerably worse candidate, Steve Bullock. Conservatives United for Richland County would like to express extreme displeasure with Senator Daines for his support of the Water Compact and federal control of public lands. We would not endorse him if there was an alternative.

\*\* While we commend Judge Bidegaray for her longterm and exemplary service to Richland County (and she is a wonderful person), we are aware of her leaning liberal in her personal political views. While this does not affect her job performance here, it very well could if Bidegaray was elected or appointed to a higher office. We desire all of our county offices to be filled with solid conservatives and cannot endorse her at this time. She is running unopposed.

\*\*\* We do not have enough information about Mrs. Klempel to make a recommendation one way or another. She is unopposed and is running on the Republican ticket.

\*\*\*\* We value Loren Young as a commissioner. Moving forward, our support for Young will be determined by his support or rejection of our initiative to declare Richland County a sanctuary for the unborn.

## ON THE BALLOT ISSUES

**Constitutional Amendment No. 46** - YES

This, along with No.47 (below) is procedural and non-controversial. It does not change current law, but changes the wording of the law for the purpose of clarity. These two initiatives (No. 46 and No. 47) more explicitly and clearly state that signatures collected for ballot measures be collected from at least half of Montana's counties, empowering more rural areas and ensuring that they are represented in the ballot measure process.

**Constitutional Amendment No. 47 - YES**

See the explanation on No. 46 (above).

**Constitutional Amendment No. 118 - YES\***

This measure will change a few words in the state constitution to allow the state the means to constitutionally regulate the sale and purchase of cannabis as it does tobacco and alcohol.

**Legislative Referendum No. 130 - YES\*\***

This measure is being pushed by the Montana Shooting Sports Association (MSSA) and prohibits municipalities from creating their own local firearms laws. This stems from Republican legislation aimed at preventing Missoula from passing gun control ordinances, which was vetoed by our Democrat governor. This is the conservative attempt to keep towns from violating gun rights.

**Initiative No. 190 - YES\***

This measure will allow the possession and use of limited amounts of marijuana for adults over the age of 21

\* It may surprise some that CURC would vote yes on the legalization of marijuana. While our personal moral opinion is that recreational cannabis use is counter-productive to human flourishing, as stated at the beginning of this voter guide, *we lean toward personal liberty and away from government intrusion*. While law-breakers should be punished to the fullest extent of the law (including those who commit crimes under the influence of drugs or to maintain their addiction), our public tax dollars incarcerate nearly 3 million people in the United States at the expense of more than 50k dollars per person. Incarceration is one of the highest budgetary items in our county and state government. Many of these incarcerated people are there for non-violent drug related offenses that carry penalties commensurate with rape and murder; for the non-violent offender in victimless crimes, they are kept out of the workforce and the tax-base during their incarceration and their families too often rely on welfare as their bread-winner remains in

jail. Meanwhile, the prosecution of these crimes is stretching an already-thin law-enforcement and penal system. None of this financial waste or unnecessary government heavy-handedness lives up to the conservative ideal. So while we conscientiously object to recreational marijuana use, we conservatives feel that our current legal prohibition of cannabis is no more effective than Prohibition of alcohol in the early twentieth century.

\*\* While we support this legislation in deference to the MSSA, we have reservations about the longterm consequences of this strategy. As state and federal governments become increasingly disinterested in individual liberties, we should ideally be giving local jurisdictions more autonomy, not less autonomy. While Missoula or any other town should be sued in court for civil rights violations if they restrict our gun rights (not to mention their leaders should be tossed from office), we may come to regret not empowering local municipalities to check-and-balance state or federal laws. And so, we endorse this Referendum, but with reservations.

## **A CAUTION ABOUT THE PAC MAILERS YOU'RE GETTING**

Republicans win elections when they act like Republicans. Conversely, Democrats also win elections when they act like Republicans. Liberals rarely advertise their progressive policies and their campaign literature often sounds like they're trying to flank Republicans from the right.

PACs (Political Action Committees) exacerbate this problem, and Montana has seen an influx of PACs whose names intentionally seek to misinform the voters. You have probably seen these PACs' mailers come to you on behalf of Steve Bullock, Kathleen Williams, Raph Graybill, and Mike Cooney.

The following are Democrat-funded PACs that masquerade as conservative groups. Most, if not all of them, are against the Second Amendment and lobby against sporting rifles like the AR-15. And yet, they appear to be pro-gun groups:

\* Winter Wildlands Alliance

\* Public Land Water Access Association

\* Montana Wildlife Association

\* Montana Wilderness Association

\* Montana Sportsmen Alliance

\* Montana Hunters and Anglers

\* Montana Conservation Voters

There are many other groups like this, called “Green Decoy Groups,” that stand against the Second Amendment and hunting access but who present gun-toting pheasant hunters or anglers in their videos, mailers, or advertising.

Additionally, there is a Pro-Family PAC that has donated nearly 600 thousand dollars to defeating Senator Steve Daines (R) on behalf of Governor Steve Bullock (D). Pro-Family PAC appears to be a pro-life and pro-family organization, but it is funded by the abortion lobby.

Finally, Richland County voters need to understand that three PACs in particular are no friends to conservatives. The **Chamber of Commerce, Montana Ag Growers, and Farm Bureau** PACs will usually - if they have a choice - endorse the most liberal Republican candidates possible in primary elections. While their involvement in general elections are less notable, real Republicans need to consider an endorsement by these organizations in contested Republican primaries to be an anti-endorsement for conservatives. **Many Richland County residents are members of these organizations, and should call upon them to stop supporting Democrat policies and candidates who routinely act against the economic interest of their members.**

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**

**PAID FOR BY CONSERVATIVES UNITED FOR RICHLAND COUNTY, MANDY HALL  
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